AUGUST 1976
No. 8

# FISHING INFORMATION

## Southwest Fisheries Center-La Jolla, California

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER
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LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037

# FISHING INFORMATION

AUGUST 1976 , No. 8

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N. Abramson, Director, Tiburon Laboratory

# PREFACE

This publication, Fishing Information, appears monthly and contains 1) fishery advisory information, 2) a narrative description of pertinent surface temperature conditions, 3) charts of winds and pressures for the eastern North Pacific, 4) charts of sea surface temperature for the North Pacific and eastern tropical Pacific, and 5) charts of subsurface temperature structure in the eastern North Pacific.

A supplement to Fishing Information appears at 15-day intervals throughout the year. This is a chart of sea surface temperature (contoured at 2°F (1°C) intervals) from Baja California to Vancouver Island out to about 135°W. Special bulletins are published in conjunction with the 15-day sea surface temperature charts which include short-term projections of albacore distribution and locations of productive fishing areas, information on oceanographic and atmospheric conditions, and other information as is appropriate during the albacore fishing season.

The secretary of Commerce has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department.

Submitted for publication - October 4, 1976

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTS ANALYZED BY:

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J. Renner (Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 15 day Supplement)

TECHNICAL EDITOR:
R. Allen
CARTOGRAPHY:
R. Allen, H. Orr

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    L. Sabourin at Langara Island Light; G. Anderson at Cape St. James Light;
    L. Collins at Kains Island Lightstation; I.G. McNeil at Amphitrite Point Light
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Expendable bathythermograph and salinity observations are made by the mates and engineers of the *California, Hawaiian Enterprise,* and *Hawaiian Queen* of the Matson Navigation Co. The data are processed under supervision of D.R. McLain at the NMFS Pacific Environmental Group, Monterey, using computer facilities of the Fleet Numerical Center. The project is partially supported by the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research.

# Sea Surface Temperature and Environmental Conditions

N. CLARK AND F. MILLER

## Eastern North Pacific

Although sea surface temperatures increased over the entire eastern North Pacific during August 1976, they did so at below normal rates. The area of greatest warming occurred between 35° N and 50° N and 150° W and 180° where the temperatures increased by 3 to 5° F (1.7 to 2.8° C) between July and August.

The sea surface temperature anomaly pattern for August is similar to that for July with a band of 1 to 3° F (0.6 to 1.7° C) above-normal temperatures extending across the entire eastern North Pacific between 25° N and 35° N and offshore southern Oregon and northern California; 2 to 6° F (1.1 to 3.3° C) below-normal temperatures extend northward from 35° N to the Aleutian Islands and over the entire Gulf of Alaska; 1 to 2° F (0.6 to 1.1° C) below-normal temperatures persisted throughout the month off central California, while above-normal temperatures off southern California and northern Baja California dropped to 1 to 3° F (0.6 to 1.7° C) below-normal values.

Sea level pressures were up to 3 millibars below normal over most of the eastern North Pacific north of 40° N during August and were around 1 millibar above normal south of 40° N. These conditions resulted in an average high pressure cell centered near 35° N and 155° W and above-normal westerly winds between 40° N and 55° N due to the strong north-south pressure gradients over this region. Coastal upwelling decreased along the coast between Cape Blanco and Point Conception because of weaker-than-normal north-to-northwesterly winds; however, upwelling increased and ocean warming was impeded off southern California and northern Baja California due to an increase in northwesterly winds during the month.

## Western North Pacific

The greatest change in the sea surface temperature anomaly pattern during August 1976 occurred between 35° N and 50° N and 150° E and 180° where temperatures that were either 1 to 3° F (0.6 to 1.7° C) above or below normal decreased to 2 to 8° F (1.1 to 4.4° C) below-normal values.

Temperatures that were 2 to 4° F (1.1 to 2.2° C) below normal over the area between 20° N and 35° N and 125° E and 150° E increased to slightly above-normal values.

The area of above-normal temperatures that appeared east of Honshu during July disappeared during August, and 1 to 4° F (0.6 to 2.2° C) below-normal temperature conditions developed offshore both Honshu and Hokkaido.

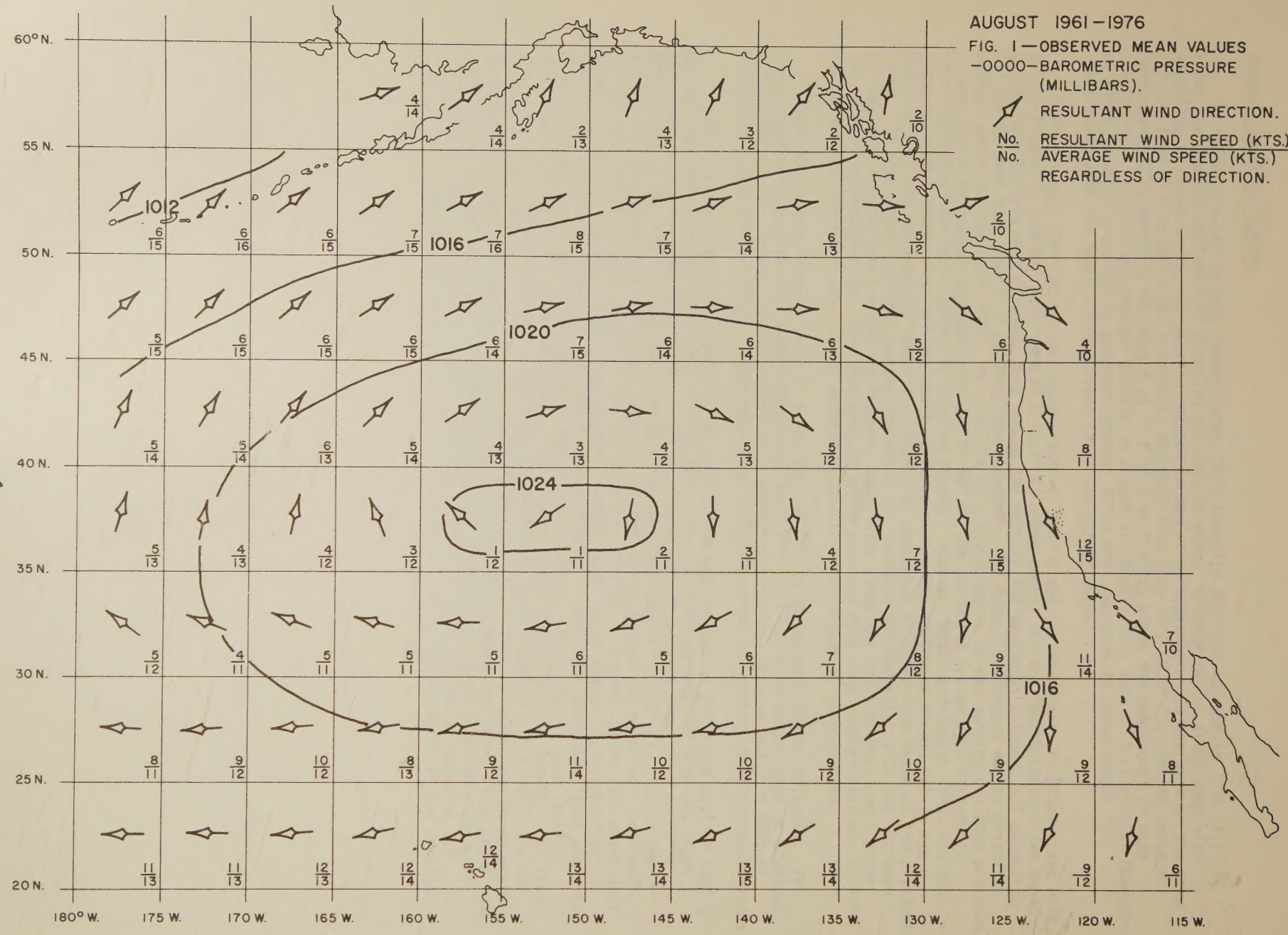
Eastern Tropical Pacific

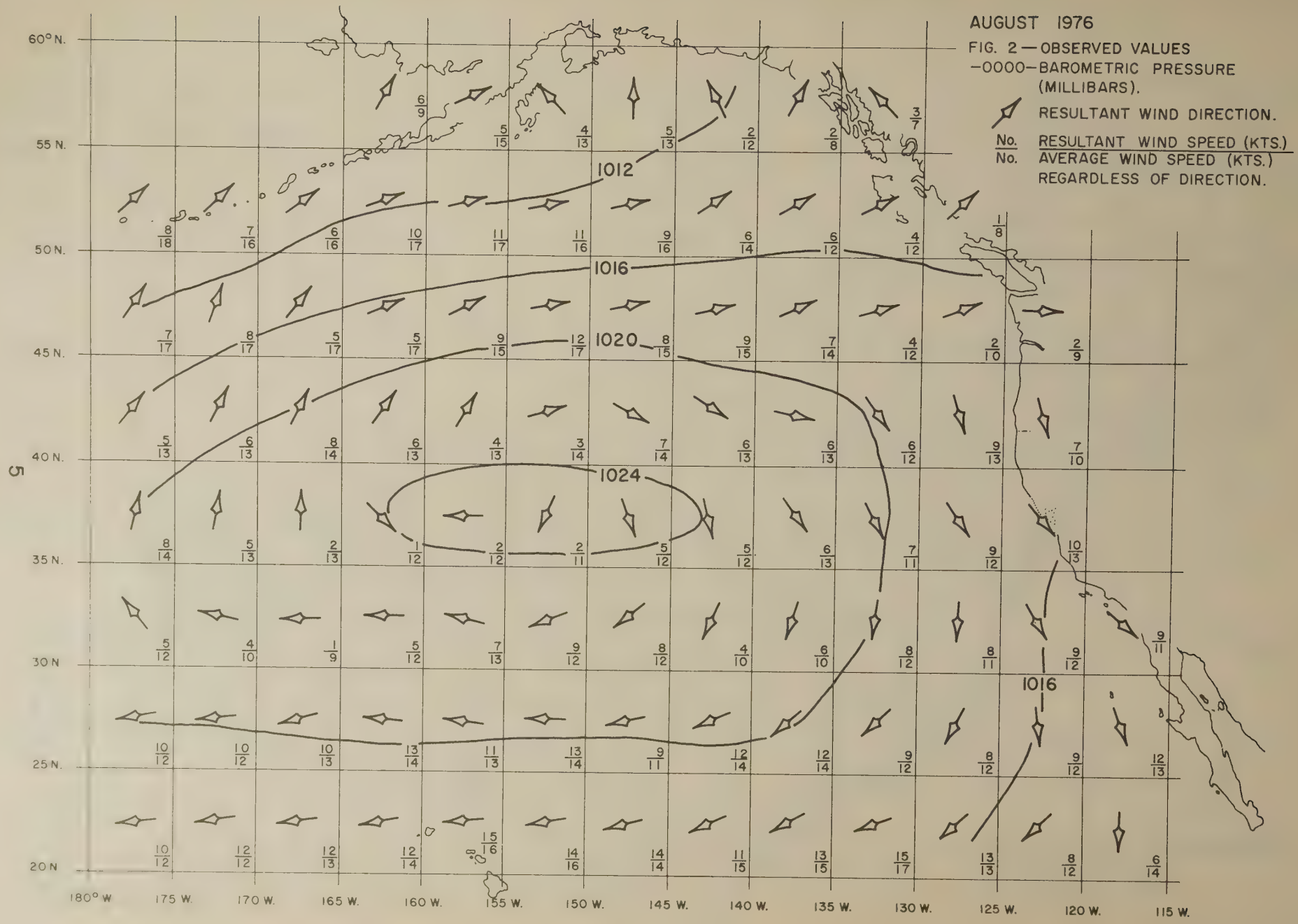
During August sea surface temperatures (SST) normally decrease as much as 3° F (1.7° C) along the equator east of 110° W and in the Peru Current. Minimum SST's, associated with upwelling in these areas, are usually reached in August or September. To the west of the Peru Current from 5° S to 30° S SST's normally decrease less than 1° F (0.6° C). In the northern hemisphere SST's normally increase 2 to 4° F (1.1 to 2.2° C) along the west coast of Baja California. North of the equator warming in August is usually less than 2° F (1.1° C). However, at times in areas traversed by tropical storms, SST's will decrease to below normal in association with the storm's heavy cloud cover and strong winds.

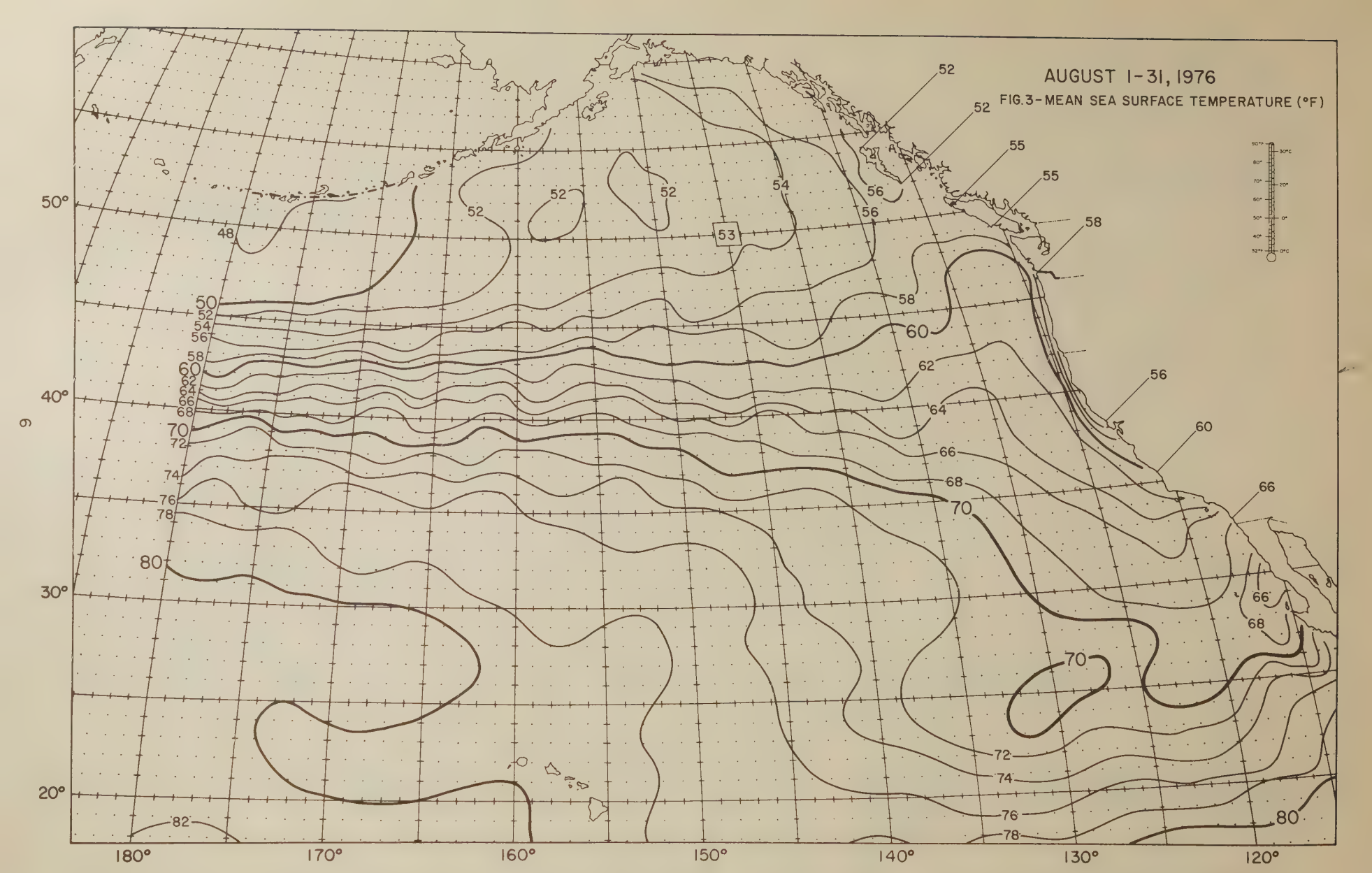
During August 1976, along the equator east of 120° W and off the coasts of Ecuador and Peru, SST's (Figure 8) remained more than 2° F (1.1° C) above normal for the fourth consecutive month. In the Peru Current west of Lima, Peru and to the west of the Galápagos Islands, SST anomalies (Figure 9) were more than 3° F (1.6° C) above normal. The events leading up to the extensive warming began in late April 1976. As a result of a displacement in the subtropical high pressure center, which is usually centered near 30° S, 90° W, the southeast trades were frequently interrupted over the Peru Current by passing storms. However, after mid-August 1976, the high pressure center intensified off the coast of Peru; and as the southeast trades set in again south of 5° S the positive SST anomalies (Figure 9) decreased slightly from those of the previous month. If this trend continues during September the positive SST anomalies will not increase and may even return toward normal by October, especially along the coast of Peru and Ecuador. Sea surface temperatures for July 1976 were recently received from some coastal stations in Peru and these data confirmed the earlier warming along the coasts shown by ship reports.

Along the equator from 5° N to 5° S and west of 130° W the warming trend continued. The areas covered by positive SST anomalies greater than 2° F (1.1° C) were larger than in previous months (Figure 9). Above normal rainfall was reported between the equator and 5° N west of 140° W where the inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) appeared in weather satellite photographs.

In the northern hemisphere above normal SST's from the equator to 20° N and east of 130° W during July 1976, provided the required heat energy at the ocean surface for tropical storm development. Six tropical depressions formed during August in an area from 10° N to 15° N between 100° W and 120° W where SST's in July were greater than 84° F (29° C). Two of the depressions developed into hurricanes Hyacinth and Iva during August and moved west-northwest through the fishing grounds south of the Revillagigedo Islands. Tropical storm Gwen moved west ahead of Hyacinth and both storms began moving northwestward after August 10, between 120° W and 130° W. To the southwest of the storms' paths winds and seas were unusually light where the northeast trade winds were interrupted by the tropical storms. As a result, tuna fishing conditions from 10° N to 15° N and west of 120° W were exceptionally good in August. Hurricane Iva followed the path of Hyacinth, resulting in weak trade winds south of 15° N until the end of August. Two more tropical depressions formed east of 110° W late in August and moved westward. The heavy storm activity during the month and associated strong winds and heavy cloud cover left areas in the wake of the storms with deficit heating. In Figure 9 these areas were centered around 95° W, 105° W and 120° W from 5° N to 15° N. West of Baja California negative SST anomalies occurred in areas where above normal northerly winds developed north of the tropical storm centers.


AUGUST 1961–1976
FIG. 1—OBSERVED MEAN VALUES
–0000–BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (MILLIBARS).
RESULTANT WIND DIRECTION.
No. RESULTANT WIND SPEED (KTS.)
No. AVERAGE WIND SPEED (KTS.) REGARDLESS OF DIRECTION.
1012
1016
1020
1024
1016
60° N.
55 N.
50 N.
45 N.
40 N.
35 N.
30 N.
25 N.
20 N.
180° W.
175 W.
170 W.
165 W.
160 W.
155 W.
150 W.
145 W.
140 W.
135 W.
130 W.
125 W.
120 W.
115 W.


AUGUST 1976
FIG. 2 — OBSERVED VALUES
—0000— BAROMETRIC PRESSURE (MILLIBARS).
RESULTANT WIND DIRECTION.
No. RESULTANT WIND SPEED (KTS.)
No. AVERAGE WIND SPEED (KTS.) REGARDLESS OF DIRECTION.
1012
1016
1020
1024
1016
60° N.
55 N.
50 N.
45 N.
40 N.
35 N.
30 N
25 N.
20 N
180° W
175 W.
170 W.
165 W.
160 W.
155 W.
150 W.
145 W.
140 W.
135 W.
130 W.
125 W.
120 W.
115 W.


AUGUST 1-31, 1976
FIG.3-MEAN SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°F)
50°
40°
30°
20°
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°
52
52
55
55
58
56
56
54
52
52
52
48
53
50
52
54
56
58
60
62
64
66
68
70
72
74
76
78
80
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66
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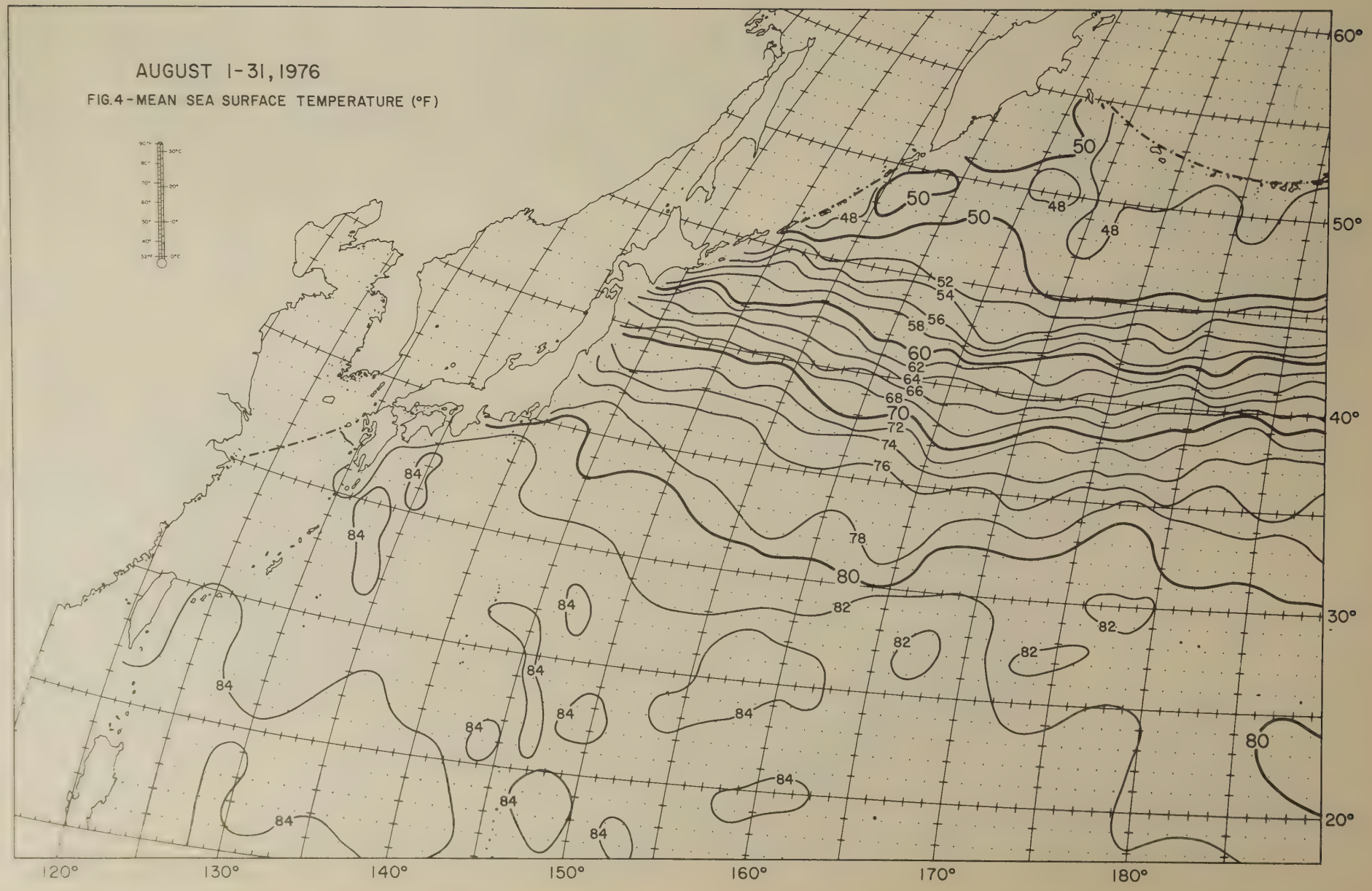
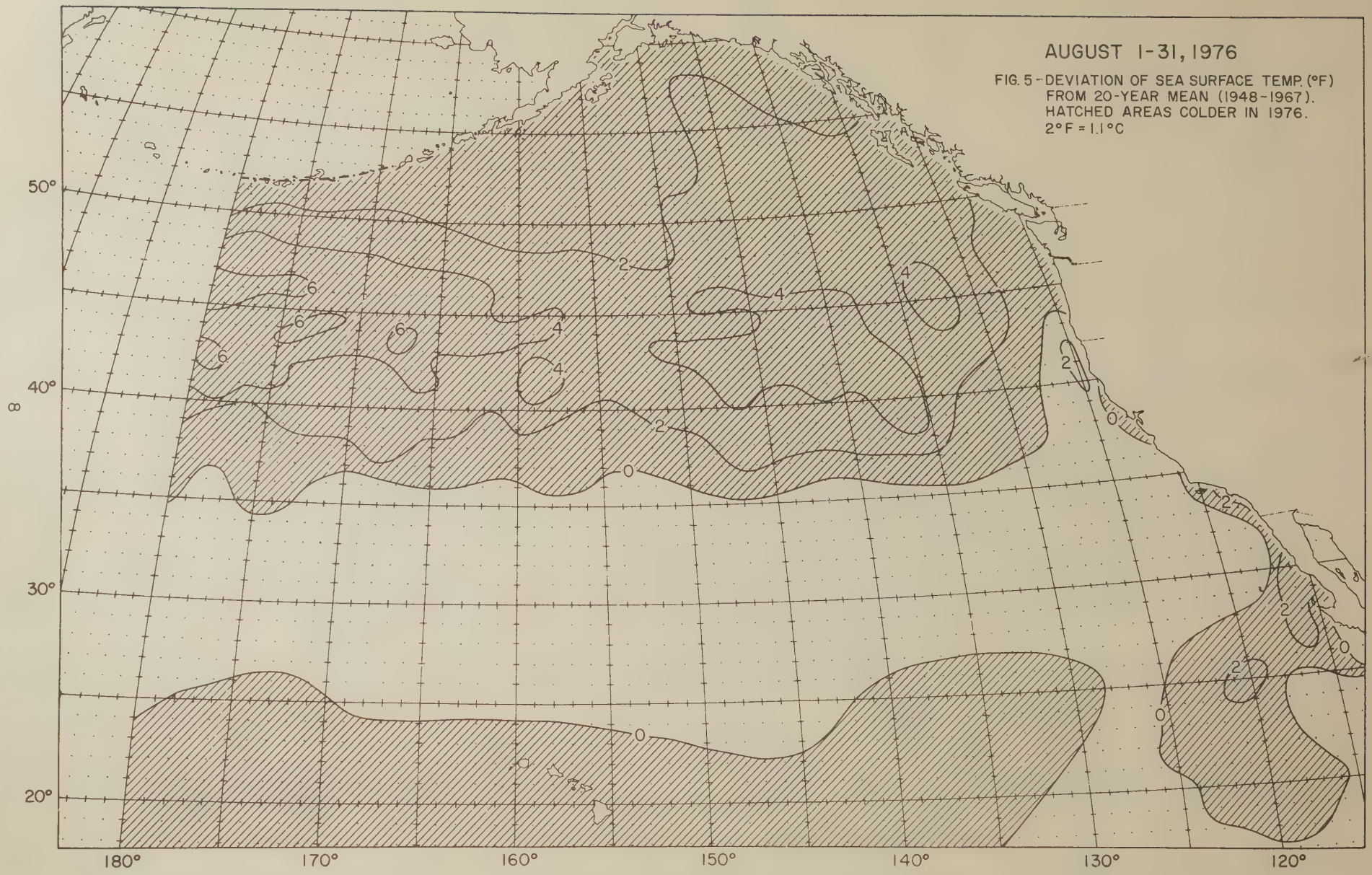
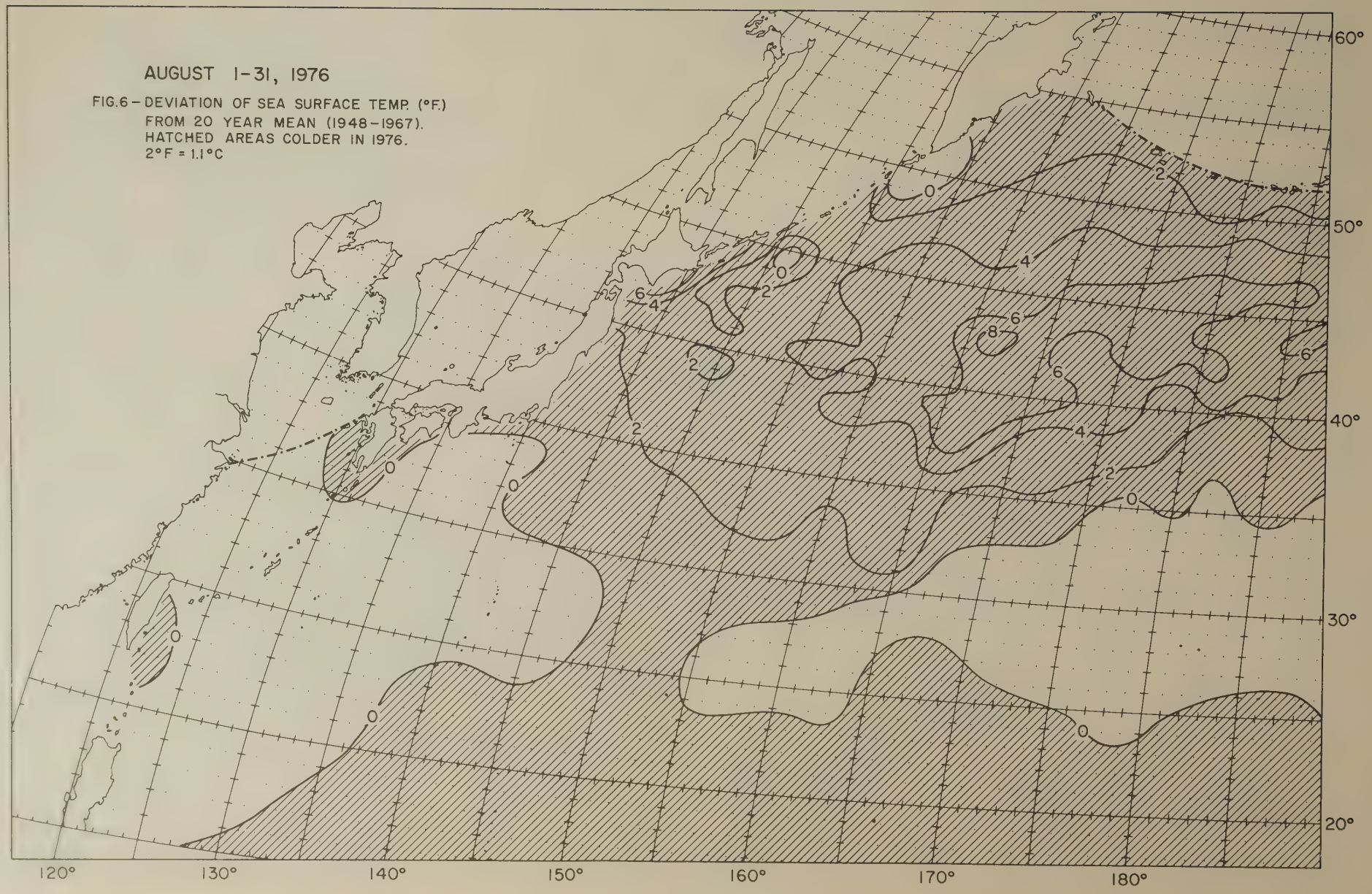
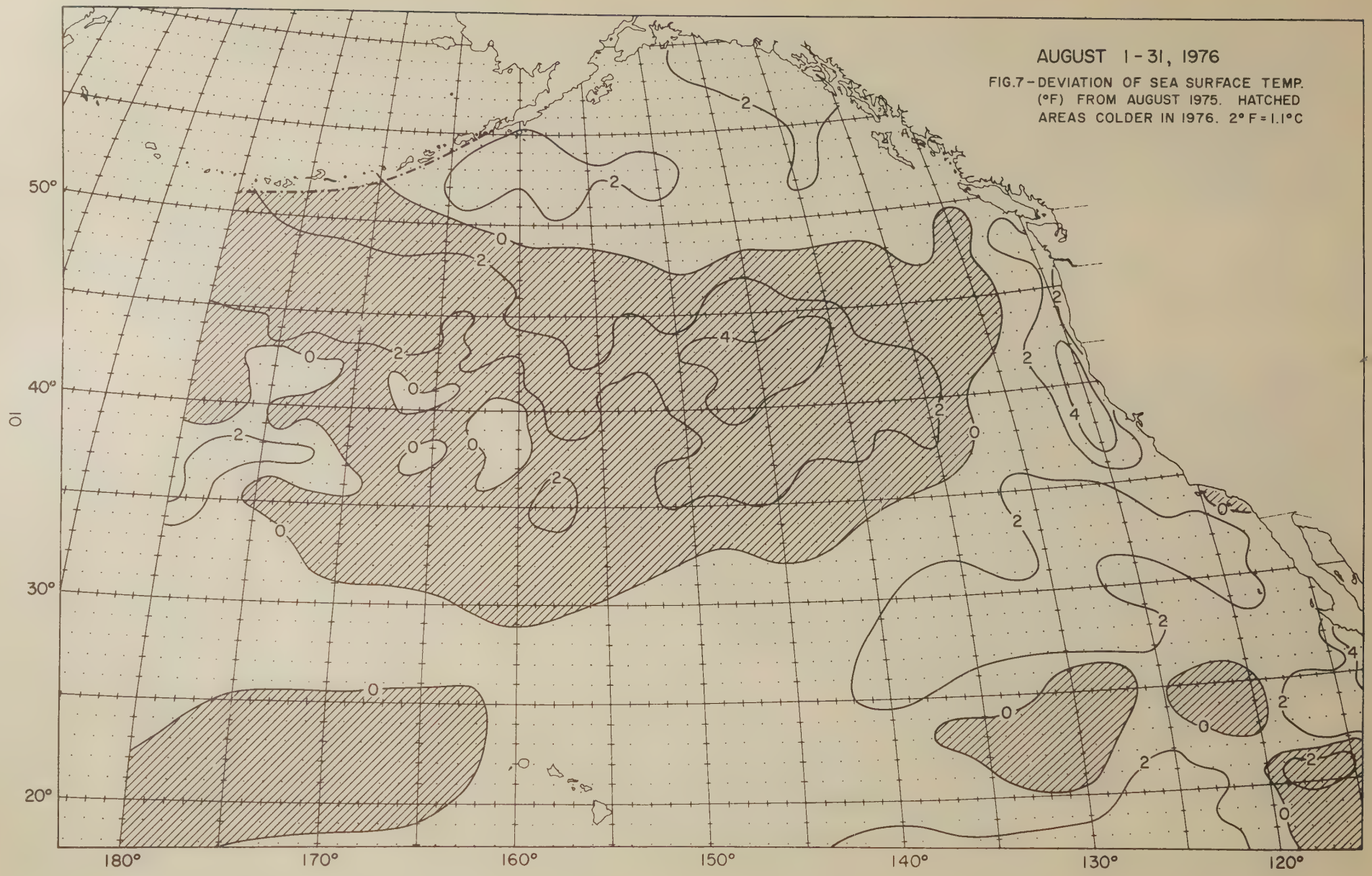
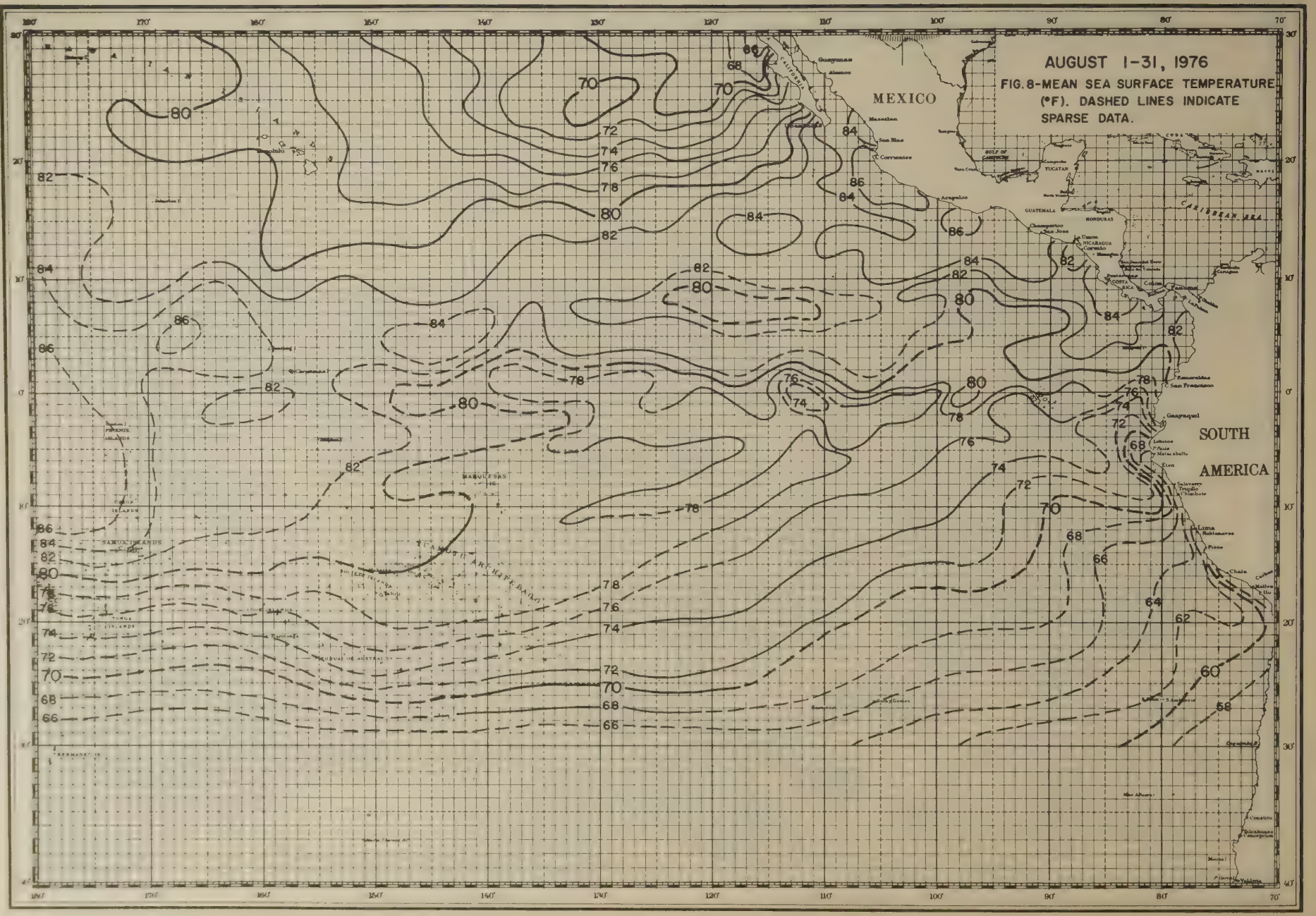
68
70
72
74
76
78
80


AUGUST 1-31, 1976
FIG.4-MEAN SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°F)
60°
50°
40°
30°
20°
120°
130°
140°
150°
160°
170°
180°
48
50
52
54
56
58
60
62
64
66
68
70
72
74
76
78
80
82
84


AUGUST 1-31, 1976
FIG. 5 - DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°F) FROM 20-YEAR MEAN (1948-1967). HATCHED AREAS COLDER IN 1976. 2°F = 1.1°C
50°
40°
30°
20°
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°
6
4
2
0


AUGUST 1-31, 1976
FIG.6 – DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°F.)
FROM 20 YEAR MEAN (1948–1967).
HATCHED AREAS COLDER IN 1976.
2°F = 1.1°C
60°
50°
40°
30°
20°
120°
130°
140°
150°
160°
170°
180°
0
2
4
6
8


AUGUST 1-31, 1976
FIG.7-DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°F) FROM AUGUST 1975. HATCHED AREAS COLDER IN 1976. 2° F = 1.1°C
50°
40°
30°
20°
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°
01


AUGUST 1-31, 1976
FIG. 8-MEAN SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (°F). DASHED LINES INDICATE SPARSE DATA.
MEXICO
SOUTH AMERICA
CARIBBEAN SEA
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
NICARAGUA
COSTA RICA
GULF OF CALIFORNIA
YUCATAN
Acapulco
Guaymas
Mazatlan
San Blas
Corrientes
Guayaquil
Lima
Chile
Callao
Salaverry
Trujillo
Pisco
Chala
Arica
Iquique
Tocopilla
Antofagasta
Coquimbo
Valparaiso
Concepcion
Talcahuano
Puerto Montt
Punta Arenas
Tierra del Fuego
Cape Horn
Easter Island
Juan Fernandez Is.
Galapagos Is.
Cocos Is.
Clipperton I.
Marquesas Is.
Tuamotu Archipelago
Samoa Islands
Cook Islands
Tubuai Is.
Austral Is.
Pitcairn Is.
Tonga Is.
Fiji Is.
Phoenix Islands
Line Islands
Tokelau Is.
Ellice Is.
Gilbert Is.
Marshall Is.
Caroline Is.
Mariana Is.
Guam
Palau Is.
Bonin Is.
Volcano Is.
Ryukyu Is.
Taiwan
Philippine Is.
Manila
Yokohama
Kamchatka Pen.
Aleutian Is.
Midway Is.
Hawaiian Is.
Honolulu
Johnston I.
Wake I.
Kwajalein
Eniwetok
Truk
Ponape
Yap
Saipan
Iwo Jima
Okinawa
Nagasaki
Kagoshima
Shanghai
Hong Kong
Vladivostok
Petropavlovsk
Nome
Kodiak
Juneau
Sitka
Prince Rupert
Vancouver
Seattle
San Francisco
Los Angeles
San Diego
Ensenada
Guadalajara
Manzanillo
Salina Cruz
Puerto Vallarta
Mazatlan
Guaymas
Topolobampo
La Paz
Cabo San Lucas
Mexicali
Tijuana
Ensenada
Socorro I.
Clarion I.
Revillagigedo Is.
Isla de Malpelo
Buenaventura
Tumaco
Esmeraldas
Manta
Salinas
Puerto Bolivar
Talara
Paita
Chimbote
Callao
Pisco
Matarani
Ilo
Arica
Iquique
Antofagasta
Chanaral

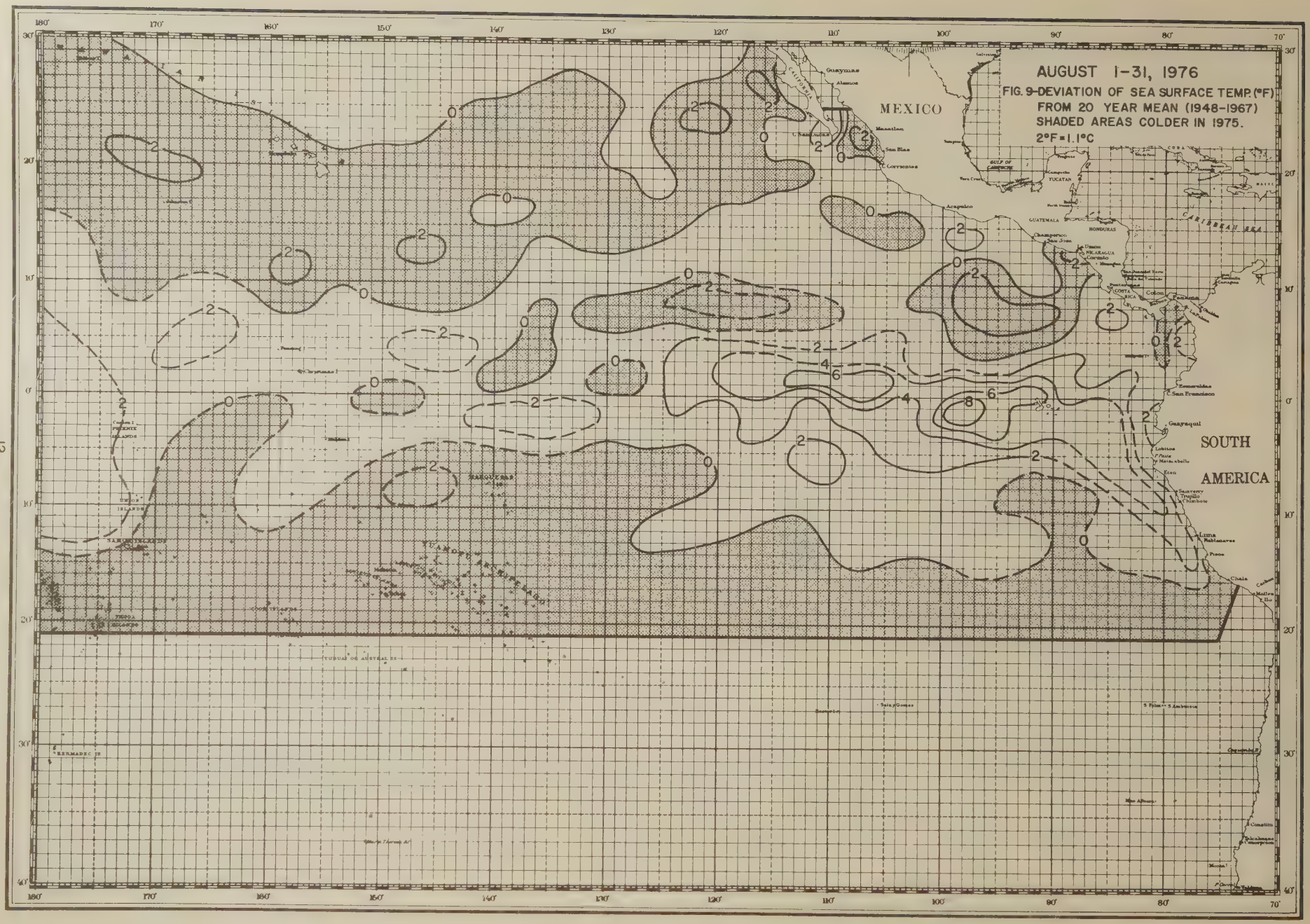
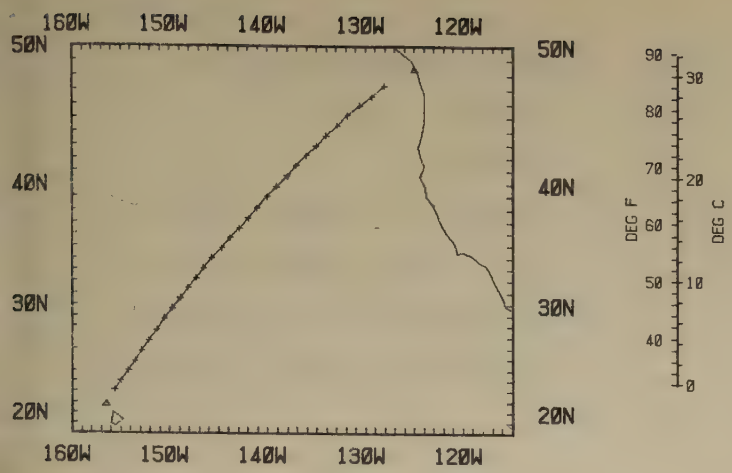

AUGUST 1-31, 1976
FIG. 9-DEVIATION OF SEA SURFACE TEMP. (°F)
FROM 20 YEAR MEAN (1948-1967)
SHADED AREAS COLDER IN 1975.
2°F = 1.1°C
MEXICO
SOUTH
AMERICA
CARIBBEAN SEA
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
NICARAGUA
COSTA RICA
YUCATAN
CUBA
HAITI
Acapulco
Manzanillo
San Blas
Corrientes
Guayaquil
Lima
Callao
Chile
Colon
Panama
Cristobal
Puerto Limon
Cocos I.
Galapagos Is.
Marquesas Is.
Tuamotu Archipelago
Easter I.
Juan Fernandez Is.
Sala y Gomez
Desventuradas Is.
Revillagigedo Is.
Clipperton I.
Socorro I.
Hawaiian Is.
Johnston I.
Line Is.
Phoenix Islands
Tokelau Is.
Samoa Is.
Tonga Is.
Cook Is.
Society Is.
Austral Is.
Tubuai Is.
Pitcairn I.
Gambier Is.
Marquesas Is.
Tuamotu Archipelago
Easter I.
Juan Fernandez Is.
Sala y Gomez
Desventuradas Is.
Revillagigedo Is.
Clipperton I.
Socorro I.
Hawaiian Is.
Johnston I.
Line Is.
Phoenix Islands
Tokelau Is.
Samoa Is.
Tonga Is.
Cook Is.
Society Is.
Austral Is.
Tubuai Is.
Pitcairn I.
Gambier Is.
180°
170°
160°
150°
140°
130°
120°
110°
100°
90°
80°
70°
30°
20°
10°
0°
10°
20°
30°
40°

FIGURE 10




SHIP CALIFORNIAN

VOYAGE 274

MATSON

CAPE FLATTERY, WASH.

- KAHULUI, HAWAII

11 AUG 1976 - 17 AUG 1976

NOAA-NMFS SWFC LAJOLLA CA.

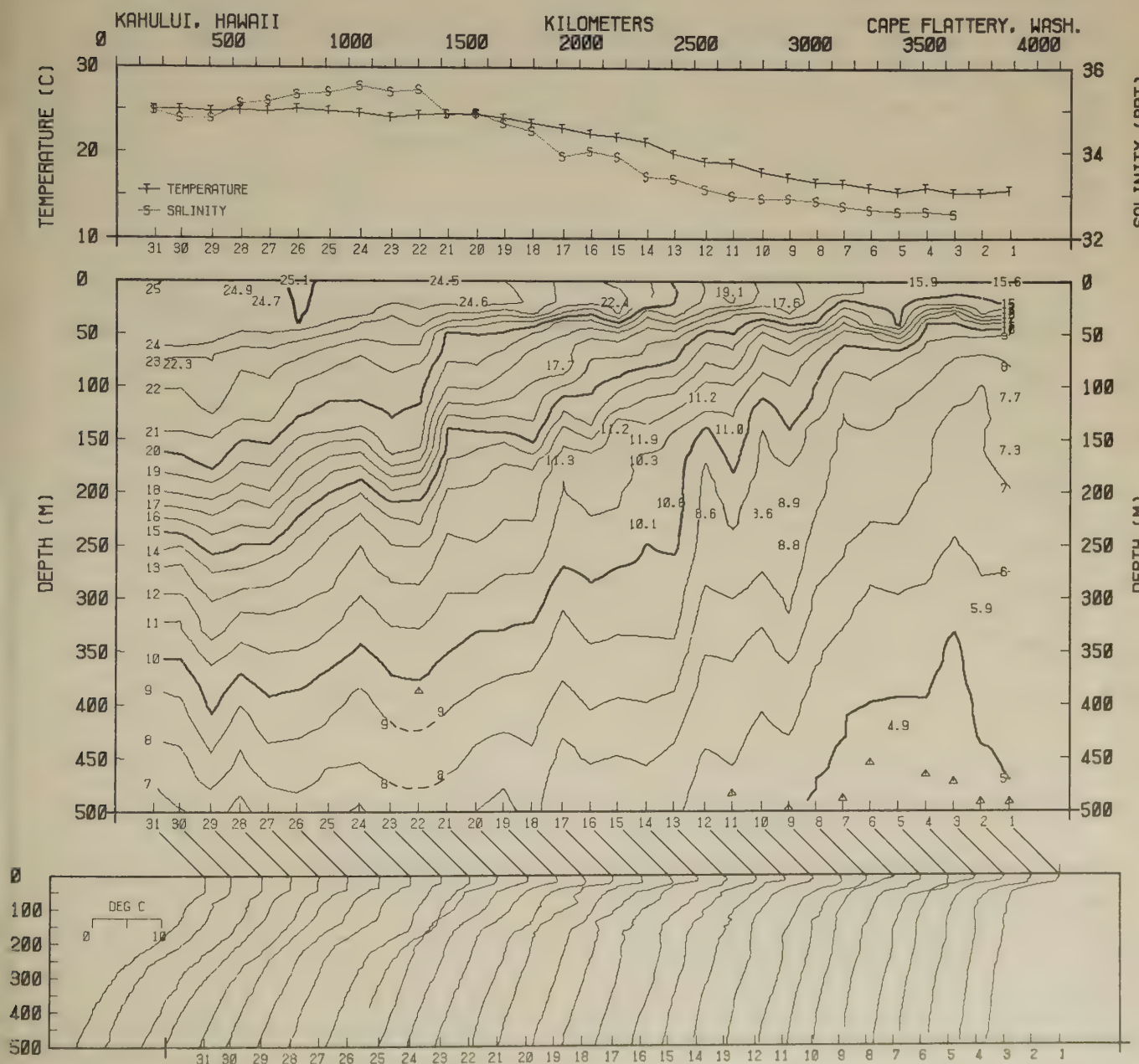
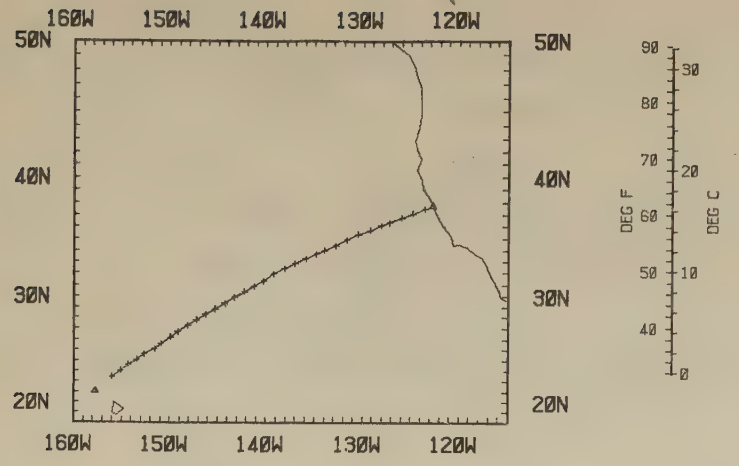


FIGURE 11




SHIP HAWAIIAN QUEEN

VOYAGE 187

MATSON

MAKAPUU PT, OAHU, HAWAII

- SAN FRANCISCO, CA.

19 AUG 1976 - 25 AUG 1976

NOAA-NMFS SWFC LAJOLLA CA.

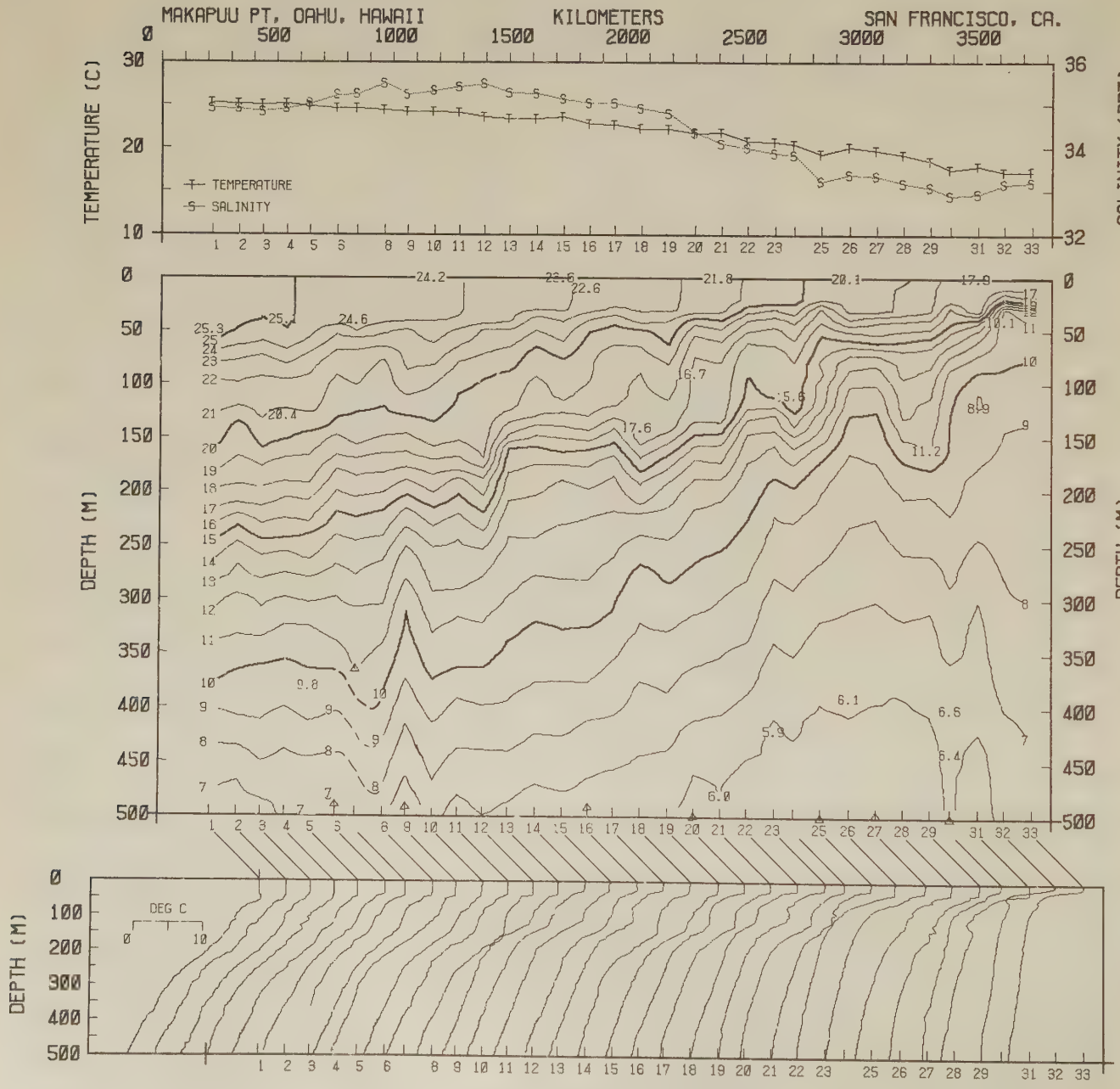
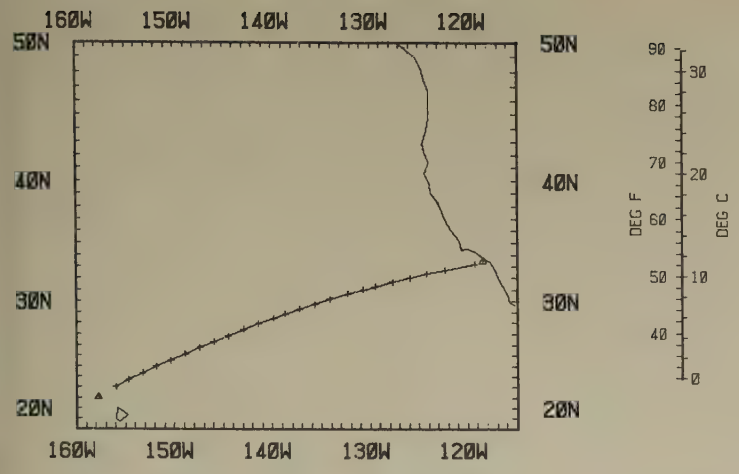


FIGURE 12




SHIP HAWAIIAN ENTERPRISE

VOYAGE 147

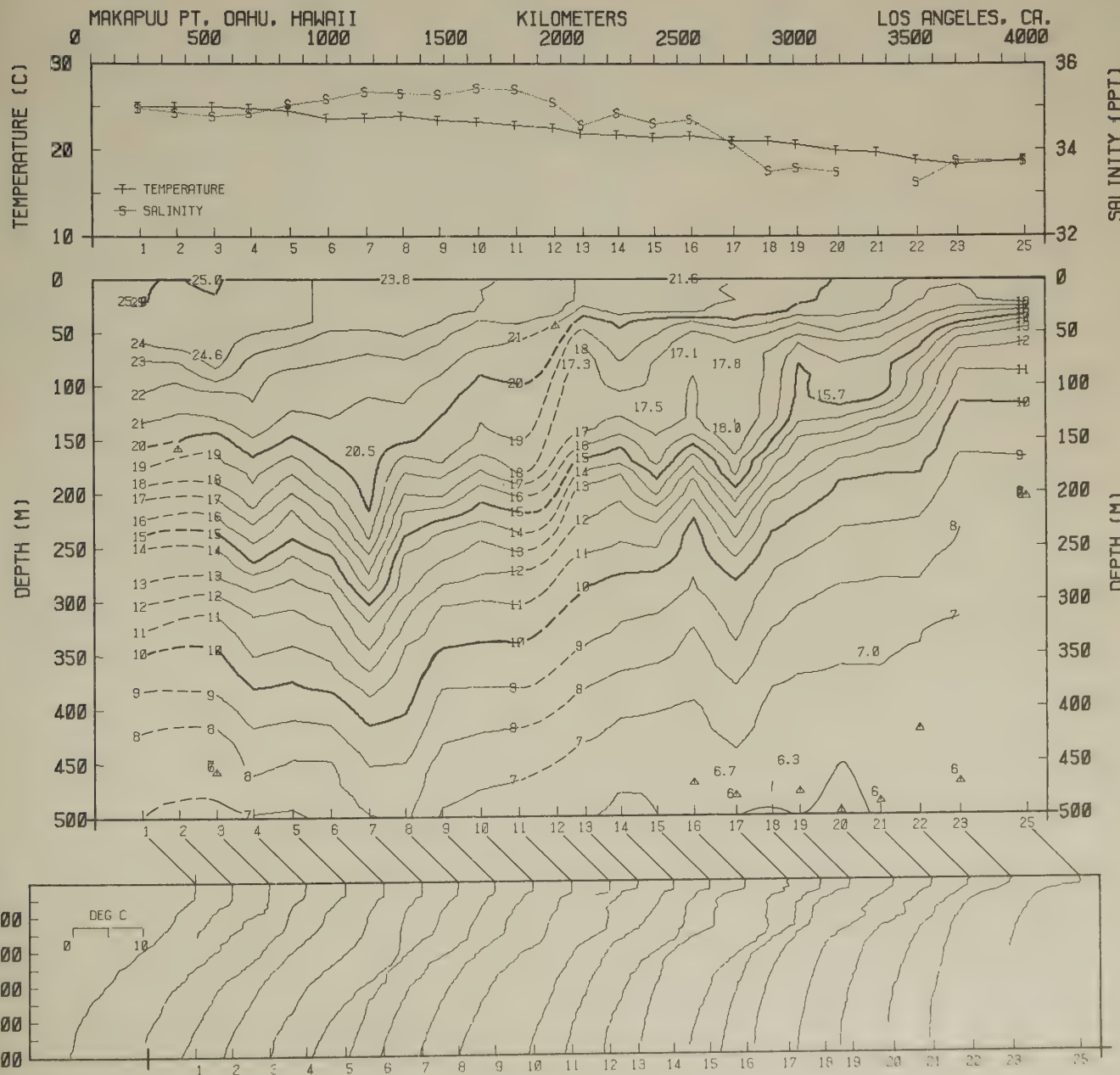
MATSON

MAKAPUU PT, OAHU, HAWAII

- LOS ANGELES, CA.

11 AUG 1976 - 16 AUG 1976

NOAA-NMFS SWFC LAJOLLA CA.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
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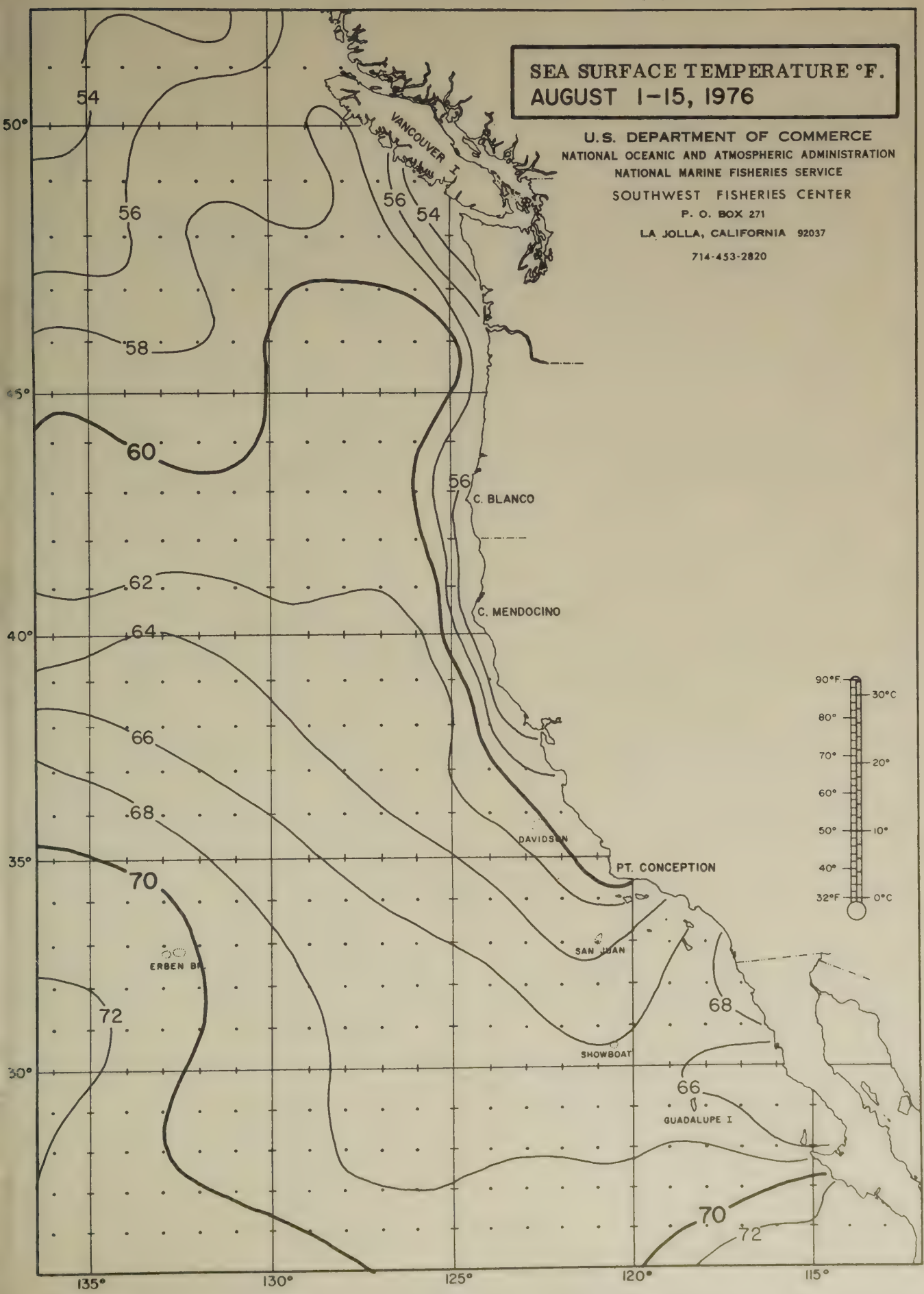
THIRD CLASS

# FISHING INFORMATION – supplement



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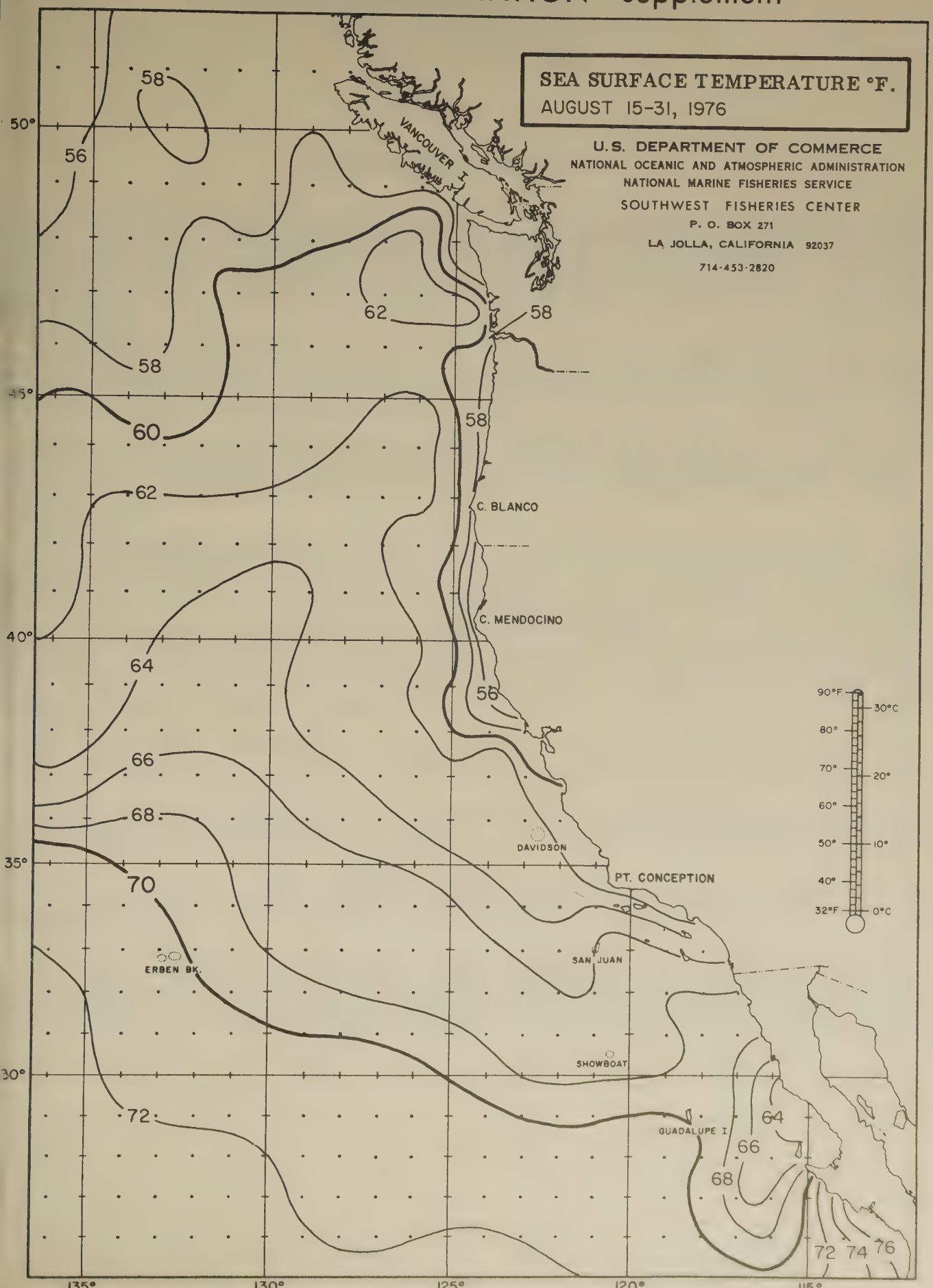

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
La Jolla, California 92038

BULLETIN No. 76-4

# FISHING IMPROVED ALONG ENTIRE COAST

Albacore were caught commercially from Guadalupe Island to Cape Cook, Vancouver Island, during the last 2 weeks f July. Fishing was good in many areas along the coast by the end of July with the most consistent location of shing off Baja California. Both jigboats and baitboats fished from 55 miles south of San Diego to southeast of adalupe Island where daily scores were 20-200 fish per boat and top catches were 200-300 fish. Albacore caught f Baja California during the third week of July were predominantly 12-14 pounds; but by the end of July, most of e fish were 20-25 pounds, and the fleet off Baja California was concentrated southeast of the 176 fathom spot near adalupe Island.

Rough seas hampered fishing efforts from Point Conception to Cape Blanco for much of the last 2 weeks of July. owever, when weather conditions permitted fishing off central California, scores of 20-250 fish were made from t Conception to San Francisco. Albacore caught in this area were mostly 16-18 pounds nearshore and 8-9 pounds offshore. Fishing was less consistent near the Gorda Seavalley and off Crescent City, but good catches of 100-00 fish were also made in these areas on some days.

Prior to July 19, boats fishing from Coos Bay to Westport, Washington reported catches of usually less than 100 ish per day. On July 19, boats fishing 60 to 180 miles offshore between the Columbia River and Westport reported atches of 200-250 fish per day on 14-16 pound fish. Since July 19, good fishing has expanded south to Newport nd north to Cape Cook with catches of 200 to 300 fish per day. Baitboats were beginning to baitfish off Cape Cook t the end of July.

The F/V Lusty, Sunrise and Deep Six have been chartered by the American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) o scout and tag albacore during this season. The Lusty and Sunrise departed Astoria on July 15 and had good catches rom approximately 100 miles west of the Columbia River on July 16. These two boats had good scores while fishing rom 100-180 miles offshore southern Washington in 58-59°F (14.4-15.0°C) sea surface temperature waters. The Sunrise ade two trips to the Vancouver Island-Queen Charlotte Islands area and reported no fish in mid-July and a 100 fish atch off Cape Cook on July 31. The Lusty headed south after working off southern Washington and made small catches rom 125-150 miles offshore Oregon and northern California. The Lusty also reported that albacore were present in air quantities from Cape Mendocino to Monterey. The Sunrise will continue to work in waters off the Pacific North-est and the Lusty will fish off California. The Deep Six left San Diego on July 16 and fished south to Guadalupe sland. It's best catch of 96 fish was on July 18 about 90 miles west of Cape Colnett; otherwise, catches were small. he Deep Six returned to San Diego on July 27.

San Diego sportboats fished from 55-70 miles south of San Diego during the last 2 weeks of July with success. he daily catches were mostly 1 to 2 fish per passenger with the better catches made during the last week of July. arlier catches were made on 18-23 pound fish; but by the end of July, 15-18 pound fish predominated.

Seasonal warming occurred at near normal rates in waters offshore western North America during the second half f July causing sea surface temperatures to increase by 1-2°F (0.6-1.1°C). The greatest increase occurred offshore regon and northern California where temperatures that were 1-2°F (0.6-1.1°C) above normal are now 2-4°F (1.1-2.2°C) bove normal.

Above-normal temperature conditions persisted off southern and Baja California except for a region south of oint Conception and around the Channel Islands where temperatures cooled 1-2°F (0.6-1.1°C) from values during the irst half of July.

According to the Long Range Prediction Group of the National Weather Service, sea level pressures are expected o be below-normal off the west coast of North America south of Cape Mendocino during August. These conditions, oupled with expected below-normal temperatures over inland valley and desert regions of the Pacific Southwest, will ause less frequent than normal periods of strong north-to-northwesterly winds off central and southern California. owever, strong winds and rough seas are expected to continue offshore the Pacific Northwest and northern California.

ugust 2, 1976

Staff, Albacore Fisheries Program
R. Michael Laurs, Leader

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
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BULLETIN No.76-5

# ROUGH SEAS AND POOR WEATHER HAMPERS ALBACORE FISHING

The primary areas of albacore fishing during August 2-15 were 1) between Guadalupe Island and Geronimo Island, from Monterey to Cape Blanco, and 3)near Estevan Point to Cape Cook, Vancouver Island. However, rough seas and r weather hampered fishing efforts in these locations and other areas along the Pacific west coast.

A small fleet of jigboats and baitboats have been working the area between Guadalupe Island and Geronimo Island. August 2, jigboats averaged 75-100 fish. Catches, however, decreased on August 3 as winds increased and boats urned to California ports. On August 10, boats were again in the Geronimo Island area and caught up to 150 fish. ches have been better since August 12 as boats averaged 100-200 fish a day on fish of 10-20 pounds from east- theast of Guadalupe Island.

Good catches were made in the Gorda Seavalley-Fort Bragg area during the first week of August. Scores were erally 100-200 fish per boat with top catches of approximately 700 fish reported on August 3. Strong winds, ever, forced many boats to return to port during the second week of August. Similar conditions prevailed between terey and Guide Seamounts as jigboats averaged 50-100 fish per boat with higher catches of 100-200 fish on August and were also forced to return to port because of rough seas during the second week of August. Fish caught off terey and near Guide and Pioneer Seamounts were generally 9-20 pounds. In both areas, boats that were able to y at sea continued to have fishing success and when boats were able to fish these areas again late in the second k, fair to good scores were reported. During the second week of August, jigboats off Cape Blanco reported scores mostly 50-250 fish.

The only other area of good fishing was off Cape Cook and Estevan Point, Vancouver Island. Jigboats had scores 50-100 fish in early August from southwest of Cape Cook, but rough seas forced boats to leave the area until the ond week of August when catches exceeding 1,000 fish per day were reported by jigboats off Cape Cook and Estevan nt for 3 or 4 days. At the end of the second week, however, catches were again about 80-200 fish. Although no res were heard from the baitboats in this area, fishing was reported to be good.

The jigboats, Lusty and Sunrise, on charter to the American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) returned to rt on August 8 after completing part 1 of a 3-part scouting and tagging cruise. The Lusty fished off central ifornia from Point Sur to southwest of Point Conception during August 2-7, but reported small catches of 17-91 h a day in 60-62°F (15.6-16.7°C) sea-surface temperature waters. These fish averaged 11-16 pounds. The Sunrise, nwhile, worked from the Dellwood Knolls to Astoria and also reported small catches from southwest of Cape Scott, couver Island to Astoria. On August 2 and 3 the Sunrise was north of Cape Scott and caught no fish in 55°F (12.8°C) -surface temperature waters; but, on August 4 while fishing southwest of Cape Scott, the Sunrise caught 68 fish ch averaged 18 pounds apiece in 56°F (13.3°C) sea-surface temperature waters.

The Lusty and Sunrise began their second trip for the AFRF on August 14 and reported no catches off Washington l a 10 fish score off Pt. Conception on that day.

San Diego sportboats continued to have fair fishing during the first 2 weeks of August as daily catches were erally between 1-5 fish per passenger. Much of the fishing was still 45 to 80 miles south of San Diego.

During the first half of August, sea-surface temperatures increased by 2-4°F (1.1-2.2°C) in most areas between North American west coast and 135°W longitude. Exceptions to this warming occurred in nearshore areas off the ific Northwest and northern California where temperatures decreased by 1-2°F (0.6-1.1°C) due to intensified up- ling. Consequently, sea-surface temperatures that were 2-4°F (1.1-2.2°C) above normal during the second half of y decreased to 1-2°F (0.6-1.1°C) below normal values in these regions.

According to the Long-Range Prediction Group of the National Weather Service, sea level pressures are expected average below normal off the west coast of North America from mid-August through mid-September. As a result, an ve-normal number of weather fronts are expected to pass over the Pacific Northwest coastal regions causing periods fairly strong south to southwesterly winds and rough seas from Cape Flattery south to Cape Mendocino and a decrease the northwesterly winds along central California. However, between frontal passages, strong northerly winds and gh seas will again occur off the southern Oregon and northern and central California coasts.

ust 17, 1976

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BULLETIN No.76-6

# ROUGH SEAS CONTINUE TO HAMPER ALBACORE FISHING; LANDINGS DOWN FROM 1975

Commercial albacore boats were fishing in widely scattered areas along the entire west coast during the
t 2 weeks of August with catches continuing to be made from Cape St. James to Destruction Island, from Cape Blanco
Point Arguello and in the vicinity of Guadalupe Island.

The most consistent area of fishing was off central Baja California as daily jigboat catches were 30-150 fish
boat with top scores of approximately 300 fish on some days. Albacore landed from this area averaged 16-18
nds. Fishing was hampered by rough seas between the Davidson Seamount and Guide Seamount, off Cape Cook and
ween Cape Blanco and Crescent City resulting in less consistent catches from these areas. However, when boats
e able to put effort in these areas, scores fluctuated and catches were between 20-450. Albacore caught off
e Cook were mostly 14-20 pounds, those off Crescent City were 9-13 pounds and those off Central California were of
ed-size.

During the third week of August, some good catches were made in the Point Arena-Fort Bragg area where jigboats
raged 50-150 fish mostly on 9-11 pound albacore. Weather conditions and fishing have generally been poor since
third week of August in this area.

Other areas that produced some commercial fishing during the last 2 weeks of August were off Cape St. James, off
truction Island, west of Cape Mendocino and in the Morro Bay-Point Arguello vicinity. Boats off Morro Bay fished
se to shore.

Baitboats worked in the Destruction Island to Cape St. James area and off central Baja California. Although
res were not heard on many days, baitboats were reported to have done well in the Pacific Northwest during the
rd week of August and baitboats off central Baja California have been doing well since August 17.

The jigboats, Lusty and Sunrise, chartered to the American Fishermen's Research Foundation (AFRF) were at sea for
t of the last 2 weeks of August and were joined by the jigboat Lady Olga on August 29. The Lusty worked from
dalupe Island to Point Conception from August 17-23 and recorded small catches. From August 24-31, the Lusty
hed 90-110 miles offshore between Morro Bay and Santa Cruz where daily catches were 17-198 fish. Best fishing was
110 miles west of Monterey. Albacore caught by the Lusty were of mixed-size with 5-7 pound and 11-12 pound fish
dominating. The Sunrise, meanwhile, fished from the southern tip of the Queen Charlotte Islands to Fort Bragg.
s best catches were made from Estevan Point to Cape St. James from August 16-21. When the Sunrise fished between
e Flattery and Cape Blanco from August 21-26, fishing was very poor. The Sunrise was in port on August 28-29
ause of rough seas off northern California but returned to sea on August 30. The Lady Olga began it's charter on
ust 29 and fished between Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands with limited success.

As of August 31, it is estimated that 7,500 tons of albacore have been landed from the North American west
ast. Last year, the seasonal landings through August were 12,000 tons.

San Diego sportboats continued to have good success during the last 2 weeks of August. From August 16-25,
tches were generally 1-2 fish per passenger, but from August 26-30 catches increased to nearly 4 fish per passenger
the sportboats fished 60-100 miles south of San Diego. At the end of the month, mixed-size fish were being caught.

During the second half of August, seasonal warming caused sea-surface temperatures to increase by 2-4°F (1.1-2.2°C)
most areas between the west coast of North America and 135°W longitude. Exceptions to this warming trend occurred
nearshore areas off the northern and southern California coasts and offshore northern Baja California where tempera-
res decreased by 1-2°F (0.6-1.1°C). Consequently, sea-surface temperatures that were 1-2°F (0.6-1.1°C) above normal
ring the first half of August decreased to 1-2°F (0.6-1.1°C) below normal values in these regions.

A large area of 2°F (1.1°C) above-normal temperatures appeared in offshore waters from Vancouver Island south to
pe Blanco. This above-normal warming was due to lighter winds and increased solar radiation associated with a ridge
high pressure that extended over the Pacific Northwest during the last week of August.

According to the Long Range Prediction Group of the National Weather Service, sea level pressures are expected
average below normal over the eastern North Pacific and coastal regions of western North America during September.
ese conditions, coupled with expected below-normal temperatures over the Pacific Southwest, will produce less
equent periods of strong north to northwesterly winds along the Oregon and northern and central California coasts.
ile occasional weather fronts will move inland over the Pacific Northwest, the more intensive storm systems are
pected to move on a more northerly track into eastern Alaska.

gust 31, 1976

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